

NEW MEMBERS TO CONTROL SENATE

Entire Appearance of Upper Branch Changed for First Time in Many Years.

BYRD LEADING FOR SPEAKER

Friends Say He Will Be Next Presiding Officer of House.

BY C. A. BOYCE.

Democratic nominees for the Senate have been chosen in thirty-one of the forty districts of the State school board.

It is again worthy of note by all school officials and all fair-minded citizens that the bid of the Virginia School Supply Company was dated May 29th, nearly three weeks from the time the school board was organized.

It is a further insight into the character of this transaction may be learned from the fact that while the State board claims to have in its possession a letter from the Virginia School Supply Company, under date of May 29th, the A. H. Andrews Company has in its possession a letter from the Virginia School Supply Company, in which he wrote:

"Dear Sirs:—The State Board of Education met last evening and took up the question of school supplies. They found in looking over their records that they were up on some things until next February or March, and were rather of the opinion that they would be wise to defer action on all until that time. However, I am working to a more definite finish on school supplies, and am requesting other desk companies to appear before them at their meeting to give them a list of the things they need, and to let them see that they are not to be deceived by the State Board of Education. You are not in this category."

The significance of this letter is that Mr. Belvin had made application in his name, early in March, 1907, for the exclusive agency in Virginia of the school desks manufactured by The A. H. Andrews Company. However, Mr. Belvin had dropped the matter when he learned that The A. H. Andrews Company was not willing to contract with him, and he means of which it might have been deprived, at the option of Mr. Belvin, of the privilege of doing business in school furniture in this State for a considerable period of time.

After taking into consideration the price, which is being quoted by the A. H. Andrews Company, as compared with those of other companies, it is not difficult to see that the State Board of Education will be able to judge for themselves as to whether the tendency of placing this school furniture contract in the hands of the A. H. Andrews Company would be to secure for the schools of the State lower prices than those offered in the open market, or whether it would give a profitable monopoly of the school furniture business in Virginia into the hands of one company.

However, without considering the interesting circumstances connected with the birth of this contract, doubts regarding its expediency are not removed by the fact that the law by which the State Board claims authority for awarding a State contract for school supplies is void, and that the fact, that an unusual stretch of imagination is required to find in it any reason for which such action is fairly to be based. The law cited is section 1433, paragraph 6, of the Virginia Code.

One of the most eminent attorneys of the State of Virginia (Go Lane and Cary Ellis Stern) have given an opinion on this law, part of which is as follows:

"The law is silent as to the duty of the board to enter into contract for school furniture and educational appliances. It is to be presumed that, had the Legislature intended that the State Board should make contracts for the furnishing of school furniture and educational appliances, it would have said so, just as it did in regard to entering into contract for textbooks. Applying the legal maxim, that the intention of the law is the exclusion of another, we come to the conclusion that the law-making power of the State did not intend that the State Board should make any such contract as it has made with the Virginia School Supply Company. Our understanding is that the district boards have the power to make contracts for furniture, such as is prescribed by the State Board of Education, and we take it that, so long as the district boards contract for such school furniture, the State Board of Education has selected the district boards have the right to contract with any manufacturing company they may see fit."

Some More History.

Why should any school board under these circumstances feel called upon to pay higher prices for school furniture than are asked for goods of equal or superior quality in the open market?

The city of Norfolk, Virginia, early in July, 1907, placed its order for school desks with The A. H. Andrews Company, and the result was that the furnishing of such desks more favorable than that of any other bidder, and saving thereby more than \$200 on the price at which the State contract was awarded to the Virginia School Supply Company. State Superintendent of Public Instruction J. D. Egleston, Jr., refused to approve this contract, although legal authorities state that the law is mandatory upon him to do so in all cases, and the general style and quality of the desks is similar to that adopted by the State Board, where the price is as low as, or lower than, that at which the adoption was made. School boards purchasing desks in the cheapest market will incur no risk for the reason that there can be no financial loss on account of this procedure.

It looks like this. Richard Evelyn Byrd of Winchester, will win the speakership of the House. It is known by those close to the Valley leader that he has recently made great inroads upon the Tidewater delegation, and he is claiming that he will get as many votes in that section as will Mr. Withers.

Messrs. Withers and Churchman are fighting, however, and neither will concede Mr. Byrd's nomination. Many of those who follow the name of Byrd are closely seen of opinion, however, that the Winchester man has the inside track, and will come under the wire on the home stretch by a safe lead.

The reorganization of the Senate along anti-railroad lines is clearly foreshadowed for the first time in more than two decades. Nominations for the Senate and House of Delegates made up to Saturday night are as follows:

Senate.

First District, Dr. David Buchanan, Marion.

Fourth District, John M. Hart, Roanoke.

Seventh District, Floyd W. King, Clifton Forge.

Ninth District, Edward Echols, Staunton.

Tenth District, R. M. Ward, Winchester.

Eleventh District, G. L. Fletcher, Warrenton.

Twelfth District, R. S. Parks, Luray.

Thirteenth District, F. W. Sims, Louisa.

Fifteenth District, F. P. Carter, Washington, Va.

Sixteenth District, J. B. Watkins, Hall'sboro.

Seventeenth District, N. B. Early, Earlysville.

Eighteenth District, W. C. White, Hardwire.

Nineteenth District, Aubrey E. Strode, Petersburg.

Twentieth District, Don E. Halsey, Lynchburg.

Twenty-second District, J. R. Tucker, Bedford City.

Twenty-third District, W. A. Garrett, Ridgeway.

Twenty-fourth District, George T. Rison, Chatham.

Twenty-fifth District, J. D. Elam, Ebony.

Twenty-seventh District, A. R. Hobbs, Marl.

Twenty-eighth District, William Hodges Mann, Nottoway.

Twenty-ninth District, Charles T. Lassiter, Petersburg.

Thirtieth District, E. E. Holland, Suffolk.

Thirty-second District, Dr. C. U. Gravatt, Port Royal.

Thirty-third District, Jno. A. Lesner, Portsmouth.

Thirty-fourth District, C. Harding Wagon, Wagon.

Thirty-fifth District, T. Ashby Wickham, Richmond.

Thirty-sixth District, S. W. Holt, Newport News.

Thirty-seventh District, Ben T. Gunter, Norfolk.

Thirty-eighth District, E. C. Folkes, A. C. Harman, Richmond.

Thirty-ninth District, John R. Saunders, Saluda.

House of Delegates.

Accomack, John R. Raw.

Albemarle, John R. Raw.

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